

Respondents vary from individuals to small businesses and major corporations.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval. All comments will also become part of the public record.

Dated February 29, 1996.

Annetta L. Cheek,

Chief, Regulatory Management Team.

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[UT-040-06-1020-00]

Notice of Intent to Amend Management Framework Plan

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, DOI.

ACTION: Notice of intent to amend Management Framework Plan.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to consider a proposed amendment to the Pinyon Management Framework Plan (MFP). The proposed amendment would consider alternatives for additional opportunities for land tenure adjustments in Iron County.

DATES: The comment period for identification of issues for the proposed plan amendment will commence with the date of publication of this notice. Comments must be submitted on or before April 14, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Arthur L. Tait, Beaver River Resource Area Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Cedar City District, 176 D.L. Sargent Drive, Cedar City, Utah 84720, telephone (801) 586-2401. Comments on the proposed plan amendment should be sent to the above address.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Beaver River Resource Area (BRRA) Of the Cedar City district, BLM, is proposing to amend the Pinyon MFP to allow for land tenure adjustments on the following federal properties not previously identified in the MFP:

Federal land: 5,975.71 acres

Salt Lake Meridian

T. 35 S., R. 17 W.,
Sec. 18 lots 1, 2, 3, 4; E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$; E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$;
T. 35 S., R. 18 W.,
Sections: 13; 14 E $\frac{1}{2}$; 24 NW $\frac{1}{4}$;
T. 34 S., R. 17 W.,
Sec. 19 lots 3 and 4 inclusive;
T. 33 S., R. 17 W.,
Sections: 23 W $\frac{1}{2}$; 34 W $\frac{1}{2}$; 35 W $\frac{1}{2}$;
T. 31 S., R. 13 W.,
Sections: 1 lots 4, 5, and 12; 3; 4 lots 1 to 4 and 7 to 10, inclusive; 5 lots 1 to 6,

inclusive, 11, and 12; 6 lots 1 and 2; 8 E $\frac{1}{2}$; 9; 10 W $\frac{1}{2}$; 20 E $\frac{1}{2}$;

The main purpose is to identify and analyze the land for exchange to private parties for acquisition of lands that result in a net gain of important and manageable resource values on public land. The United States is considering the acquisition of the following described *NON-FEDERAL*:

Land: 6,590.44 acres

Salt Lake Meridian

T. 35 S., R. 18 W.,
Sections: 23 NW $\frac{1}{4}$; 25 W $\frac{1}{2}$; 27 N $\frac{1}{2}$; 29 N $\frac{1}{2}$; 33 S $\frac{1}{2}$; 34 N $\frac{1}{2}$; 35 W $\frac{1}{2}$.
T. 31 S., R. 15 W.,
Sections: 2; 16; 36 W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$, and NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$.
T. 31 S., R. 17 W.,
Section 32;
T. 32 S., R. 17 W.,
Sections: 2 lots 1 to 4, inclusive, S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, and SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$; 16.
T. 34 S., R. 19 W.,
Section 16.

Lands transferred out of Federal Ownership as a result of the exchange, would be available to meet the various needs of the respective parties. An EA will be prepared to analyze the impacts of this proposed plan amendment and alternatives.

Public participation is being sought at this initial stage in the planning process to ensure the MFP amendment addresses all issues, problems and concerns from those interested in the management of lands within the BRRA. Necessary amendments to the approved plan will keep the document viable.

Doug Koza,

Acting State Director, Utah.

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Minerals Management Service

Aboriginal Title and Rights Claims Information in Cook Inlet and Prince William Sound, AL

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service (MMS), Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Request for information regarding claims of aboriginal title and rights in Cook Inlet and Prince William Sound of southern Alaska.

SUMMARY: This notice solicits factual data relevant to claims of aboriginal title and rights to unspecified portions of the Alaska Federal Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) included in the areas proposed for lease in OCS Lease Sales 149 (Cook Inlet) and 158 (Gulf of Alaska/Yakutat).

In a separate Federal Register notice, the Department of the Interior announced receipt of, and requested comments on, a petition for rulemaking on issues regarding claimed aboriginal title and aboriginal hunting and fishing rights of federally recognized tribes in Alaska exercisable on the OCS.

DATES: Comments on this request for information are requested through April 4, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be directed to: Paul Stang, Chief, Branch of Leasing Coordination, Office of Program Development and Coordination, (MS-4410) Minerals Management Service, 381 Elden Street, Herndon, Virginia 20270-4817. Please indicate that your comment is in response to the request for factual data regarding aboriginal title and rights on the Alaska OCS.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

William Quinn at (703) 787-1191.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Minerals Management Service (MMS) exercises the delegated duties of the Secretary of the Interior under the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Lands Act, 43 U.S.C. 1331 *et seq.* for management of the resources of the OCS, the seabed seaward of three miles from the coastline (except in the case of Texas and Florida). Pursuant to the current 1992-1977 5-Year OCS Leasing Program, announced July 1, 1992, MMS has advanced to the final planning stages for the scheduled 1996 offering of natural gas and oil leases on the federal OCS in Cook Inlet, Sale 149. This is the fourth federal OCS lease sale in Cook Inlet. The State of Alaska has included portions of Cook Inlet in 28 of its offshore lease sales.

The Native Villages of Eyak, Tatilek, Chenega, Port Graham, and Nanwalek have, through correspondence, petition and litigation, advised MMS of their claims of aboriginal title and aboriginal hunting and fishing rights to unspecified portions of the sale area. The Villages are located in the Cook Inlet and Prince William Sound area of southern Alaska. The Villages have submitted a petition for rulemaking requesting the promulgation of regulations that recognize and protect such Villages' "exclusive fishing rights" on the Alaska OCS. Petitioners claim that there is legal support for the existence and recognition of such rights under the doctrine of aboriginal title and that such Villages have "exclusively used and occupied" the OCS for "subsistence purposes" since "time immemorial". The Villages assert that Sale 149 would interfere with the existence of their rights and deprive them of mineral income rightfully theirs. This information will also be considered in making final decisions on Sale 149, Cook Inlet and Sale 158, Gulf of Alaska, Yakutat.

The Government has consistently taken the position that no person or entity has title to, or hunting and fishing rights on, the Alaska OCS, which is